



Media Advisory
For Immediate Release
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Veterans Crisis Line Outreach

Some Veterans in your state may be in crisis, facing serious challenges, such as transitioning from military service back to civilian life, coping with aging, or dealing with a mental health issue that has never addressed. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has an easy and effective way for you to help them access the emotional and mental health support they've earned.

The Veterans Crisis Line (formerly the "National Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline") is a free, confidential hotline, online chat, and text service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA healthcare, Veterans, Service members, and their friends and family can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net, or send a text message to 838255 to reach a trained VA responder for support and referrals.

We need your help to spread the word about this critical resource. You can simply update your Veteran suicide prevention information or include a Veterans Crisis Line Web banner on the homepage of your State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Web site (e.g., www.dmva.alaska.gov/). By displaying the correct Veterans Crisis Line link and information on your homepage, you can provide a direct portal to specialized VA crisis support services and benefit the Veterans, Service members, and their friends and family who live in your state.

Please visit the Veterans Crisis Line Web site to download Web banners in a variety of sizes and styles at <http://veteranscrisisline.net/banners/public/>. Just select the web banner that works best for you and copy/paste the associate HTML into your site code.

The Veterans Crisis Line also offers call referral tent cards for use when a Veteran in crisis calls your office. The tent card has clear instructions for handling such calls and transferring them to the Veterans Crisis Line. Additional materials, including wallet cards and brochures are available for sharing with Veterans in your network.

For Veterans and Service members who are not in crisis, but may benefit from information about mental health support, VA provides an additional online resource at www.MakeTheConnection.net. This Web site provides visitors with candid, personal testimonials from Veterans and their families to help them realize they are not alone—there are people out there like them who are going through similar experiences, overcoming challenges, reaching positive outcomes for treatment and recovery, and finding paths to fulfilling lives. The site also directs visitors to resources and information to address their specific needs.

It is up to all of us to help Veterans. Please let your Web site visitors know that round-the-clock support is only a call, click, or text away whenever, if ever, they need it. We appreciate your service to Veterans, Service members, and their families, and your help in ensuring they have awareness of and access to the services and resources that keep them safe.